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June 15, 2000

Douglas J. Meislahn
Examiner
Art Unit 2767
Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Re: Application/Control Number: 09/081,872
Inventor: John H. Messing

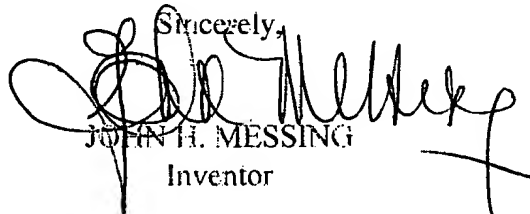
Dear Mr. Meislahn:

This will confirm our telephone conversations. You have granted additional time to file a response to the Detailed Action mailed March 29, 2000 because on page 10, the reference to "Walker et al." should be "Haber et al." The new deadline is 60 days from June 1, 2000, when this reference was first drawn to your attention, and not 90 days from March 29, 2000 as previously set.

Although I drew your attention to the fact that one reference cited by you, Sampson et al." was actually patented on September 1, 1998, subsequent to my filing date, you have stated that you are entitled to use this as prior art because the filing date of July 13, 1995 preceded my filing date. I reserve any argument on this point until my submission to you in accordance with the new deadline.

Please contact me at once if I have mistated or misunderstood our conversations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JOHN H. MESSING
Inventor

JHM/ib